(c) whether engine and aviation system of Tejas aircraft is indigenous;

(d) if not, the name of the country from where it is imported;

(e) the bottlenecks in developing the indigenous technology for this;

(f) whether there is any proposal to develop indigenous technology for this; and

(g) the steps being taken for the development of indigenous technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) In Main Battle Tank, Arjun, the powerpack consisting of engine and transmission is imported from Germany, whereas the armament system, has been indigenously developed.

(c) and (d) The engine used in Tejas Aircraft is imported from United States of America (USA), whereas 70% of avionic systems integrated on Tejas is indigenous and 30% has been imported from Israel, France, Italy, United Kingdom (UK) and USA. Parallel efforts are being made for indigenizing remaining 30% of the avionic systems.

(e) Only few countries in the world are currently capable of design and development of engines for aircraft and tank. These are exceptionally complex technologies and involve many disciplines and vast industrial base and capabilities. Hence development of these technologies take longer time.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Indigenous Kaveri engine development programme is already under progress. To cater to the additional thrust requirement within the same engine envelope, co-development with an established and reputed international engine house is being contemplated.

A project has also been proposed to develop indigenous engine and transmission on joint venture basis partnering with potential Indian Industries for Arjun Tank. DRDO has already commenced pre-project activities associated with this new development.

Activities of defence beyond purview of RTI Act

†1418. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the activities of the Ministry of Defence which are beyond the purview of the Right to Information Act currently;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to this cover of secrecy and exemption from responsibility to answer, corruption, fear and uncertainty is pervaded in entire mechanism; and

(c) whether all activities except preparation of services, their movement and number of equipment and capacity would be brought under the purview of Right to Information to bring transparency?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Under the Ministry of Defence, only Defence Research and Development Organization, and Border Road Development Board are exempted from the purview of the Right to Information Act 2005. However, information pertaining to the allegations of corruption and human rights violations are not exempted.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CAG report on inflated figure of sales by BEML

1419. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the C&AG in his recent report on the working of BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.) has stated that the company has inflated its sales by Rs. 894 crore; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter and the action taken/proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BEML has been advised to ensure that sales are booked appropriately and also have a re-look at its sale accounting policy.

Shortfall in intake of officers in armed forces

1420. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been shortfall in the intake of officers in the armed forces of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has studied the reasons for this shortfall in the intake of officers;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to attract the talented youth in the armed forces of the nation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) There have been shortfalls in the intake of officers in the Armed Forces for a variety of reasons which include availability of employment opportunities in other sectors, tough selection procedures, difficult service conditions coupled with perceived high degree of risk involved in service career.

A number of steps have been taken to attract the talented youth to join the Armed Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain , Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively.